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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Allocation of Spectrum Below 5 GHz Transferred from  
Federal Government Use (ET Docket No. 94-32)

Dear Mr. Caton:

COMSAT Corporation ("COMSAT"), through its COMSAT Mobile Communications division, hereby submits its Reply to Comments filed on the Commission's Notice of Inquiry ("NOI") in ET Docket 94-32, concerning the transfer of 50 MHz of Federal Government radio spectrum to the private sector.<sup>1</sup> The NOI seeks information on the Department of Commerce proposal to immediately reallocate to private sector use the frequency bands 2390-2400 MHz, 2402-2417 MHz and 4660-4685 MHz.

COMSAT supports the Comments of Loral/QUALCOMM Partnership, L.P. ("LQP"), which urges the Commission to allocate all, or some portion, of the initial 50 MHz to be released by the Federal Government for use by mobile satellite service ("MSS") systems.<sup>2</sup> As LQP noted in its Comments, the Commission has articulated strong support for global MSS systems and, in several recent pronouncements, has pledged to use its administrative processes to facilitate identification of suitable spectrum to implement worldwide MSS.

In May, the Commission released a Notice of Inquiry regarding preparations for the 1995 International Telecommunications Union ("ITU") World Radiocommunications Conference ("WRC-95").<sup>3</sup> The proceeding, to a significant degree, is an extension of issues treated at the 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference ("WARC-92") where the U.S. Delegation strongly advocated and supported adoption of new

<sup>1</sup>Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 94-32, FCC 94-97, released May 4, 1994.

<sup>2</sup>Comments of LQP at 4-6.

<sup>3</sup>Notice of Inquiry, IC Docket 94-31, FCC 94-96, released May 5, 1994 ("WRC-95 NOI").

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spectrum for MSS,<sup>4</sup> and at WRC-93 at which one of the major goals of the U.S. delegation was "to facilitate the introduction of worldwide MSS."<sup>5</sup>

In the NOI preparing for WRC-95, the Commission is seeking comments to assist it in developing U.S. proposals that will address ways to facilitate use of the MSS spectrum allocations adopted at WARC-92, identify suitable feeder link bands to support MSS operations, and identify additional spectrum to meet the future needs of MSS. COMSAT agrees with LQP, and other MSS commentators including Motorola, Inc. and American Mobile Satellite Corporation ("AMSC"), that the 50 MHz of spectrum proposed for immediate transfer from the Federal Government to the private sector merits consideration by the Commission as candidate bands for additional global MSS spectrum.<sup>6</sup> The 25 MHz in the lower portion of the spectrum at 2 GHz could, pending the outcome of WRC-95, be allocated for MSS service links, while the spectrum near 5 GHz would be extremely useful for designation as non-geostationary satellite feeder link bands.

In June, the Commission made another significant pronouncement regarding global MSS systems as part of its decision establishing rules for new Personal Communications Services ("PCS").<sup>7</sup> In that decision, the Commission recognized the potential value of MSS service and shifted its initial PCS allocation out of the 2180-2200 MHz global MSS downlink band in order to preserve most of the WARC-92 MSS global allocations. Nevertheless, as a result of its PCS decision, 20 MHz of uplink MSS spectrum -- 10 MHz in the Region 2 band at 1970-1980 MHz and 10 MHz of the global band at 1980-1990 MHz -- which was allocated by the Commission to terrestrial PCS, potentially has been rendered unusable for MSS in the United States. For that reason, the Commission expressed its intent in the PCS Order to initiate a domestic proceeding to investigate additional MSS allocation

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<sup>4</sup>COMSAT notes that the band 2390-2430 MHz, which contains the 2390-2400 MHz and 2402-2417 MHz bands, was initially proposed by the U.S. Delegation at WARC-92 as primary (earth-to-space) MSS spectrum. See U.S. Delegation Report on the World Administrative Radio Conference for Dealing with Frequency Allocations in Certain Parts of the Spectrum (Malaga-Torremolinos, 1992).

<sup>5</sup>See WRC-95 NOI, FCC 94-96, at 9.

<sup>6</sup>See Comments of Motorola, Inc. at 9-10; Comments of AMSC at 1-2.

<sup>7</sup>Memorandum Opinion and Order, GEN Docket 90-314, FCC 94-144, released June 13, 1994.

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possibilities involving the broadcast auxiliary band and stated that it would pursue additional international allocations for MSS at WRC-95. The Commission made these commitments in recognition of the role to be played by MSS in the global telecommunications infrastructure.

It is vitally important that the Commission and, indeed, the world at WRC-95, continue to identify additional allocations for global MSS service and feeder links in order to realize the economic and technological benefits of MSS. Global MSS systems such as the International Maritime Satellite Organization's ("Inmarsat's") Inmarsat-P service, will stimulate economic growth both in the United States and abroad while meeting the telecommunications needs of international business and helping to extend the global information infrastructure to remote locations around the world.

COMSAT notes that the Commission, as part of its preparations for WRC-95, has established an Industry Advisory Committee ("IAC") which, among other tasks, will analyze alternative new spectrum allocations for international MSS service and feeder links and recommend a package of the most promising allocation proposals for possible inclusion in the U.S. proposals to be submitted to the ITU for WRC-95. As a participant in the IAC, we urge the Commission to recommend that the Committee study the utility of using all, or any suitable portion, of the 50 MHz of Federal Government spectrum for MSS service and/or feeder links and ask the Commission to proceed with recommendations and allocations in the instant NOI that are consistent with the findings of the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

COMSAT Corporation



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cc: All parties on attached Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Pamela L. Sonnevile, hereby certify that the foregoing "Reply to Comments in ET Docket No. 94-32" was served by first-class mail, postage prepaid, this 30th day of June, 1994, on the following persons:

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